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SKYWATCH

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CHRISTMAS / NEW YEAR ISSUE

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LETTERS PAGE

Dear Sir,

Just a few lines to state that I was most interested in your article shown in the Manchester Evening News the other day headed "Is there really anybody out there?". It was about UFO's, Flying Saucers, etc. Well, first of all I must introduce myself. I am a railwayman and I work on work which is mainly at nighttime and I travel all over the country. Well, I have seen at least 15 different kinds of objects in the sky at night and very early in the morning - say 3 a.m. or 4 a.m. Dome shaped objects that seem to give off a dull red glow and also long cigar-shaped objects, dark in colour, that appear out of one cloud and then disappear into another. Sometimes these appear as a small star with a tail that gives off a greenish hue. I do not carry a camera so have no pictures, but I have mates who can support my story. They've seen UFO's, but don't believe there is anything in the theory that they are from another planet, like I do.

(signed) Mr. J. Allen, Crewe, Cheshire.

P.S. There should be some explanation; why don't people realise they do exist.

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Dear Mr. Rees,

Thank you very much for putting word in about J.E.T. I would like to point out that any juniors of fifteen years and under are welcome to join J.E.T. subscription FREE. J.E.T. will be officially opened on January 1st. Please send your name & address to C. May, 460, Victoria Avenue, Higher Blackley, Manchester M9 3PL.

P.S. I think SKYWATCH has become a good magazine; keep up the good work. C.M.

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S K Y W A T C H I S P U B L I S H E D M O N T H L Y

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Just received a circular from the Surrey Investigation Group on Aerial Phenomena giving details of their magazine "Pegasus", of which they are changing its format to pocket size. Having appeared since 1969, the magazine has always been interesting in content - new price, available quarterly: 20p each.

In November (weekend 23rd/24th), a special "delegates" conference was held at Clayton, and put "700" UFO spotters on Red alert. What could this be? Has the British Government held a special conference to plan its UFO Research programme? NO - (anti-climax) - No such luck! It was the old campaigners BUFORA, who never fail to raise a laugh with their approach and attitude to the UFO Phenomena in Great Britain. Roger Stanway, aged 30, (Chairman), states: "It is recognised by researchers that UFO's come and go in seven year cycles. There have been many close sightings in France recently and we now anticipate a wave of them over here".

Mr. Stanway, take note! UFO's don't come in 7 year cycles. If anything this is only one of many theories. Also, Mr. Stanway I feel, has been anticipating for too long, for in 1973 and 1974 flaps have been recorded in the North-West of England. UNTIL BUFORA CO-OPERATE with US local groups, they don't stand a chance and even after 12 years BUFORA still won't accept and share anything. I was told in confidence by a "top" BUFORA official that a meeting with all local groups in the N.W. was being planned before the New Year. This farce in November was for that purpose, but no local representatives were invited, or knew of its exact date or location. BUFORA, you are TOO vague in your plans, and as supposedly the British Representatives in World UFOlogy, more an insult than an asset!

Look out on I.T.V. for the new S.F. series "SPACE 1999" starting in the New Year.

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MAPIT WISHES ALL MEMBERS AND REGULAR READERS A HAPPY
CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

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THE LOONY BIN

The unique thing about the UFO subject is speaking to the so-called "Lunatic Fringe" when you go and interview people who claim to have sighted a UFO; visit fellow UFOlogists at Group Meetings; attend conferences and, of course, through correspondence, some of these people appear sometimes more than a bit eccentric and unusual.

The ex-clergyman who, because the church wouldn't accept his belief in the devil and goblins, left the church and is now a Psychic of the highest degree. Then, on a trip to a UFO group, I met a man obsessed with the MIB's more than the UFO's. He told me that the MIB's had destroyed his whole life by killing his wife and leaving him alone in the world with his three children. I later learned that his wife had got so fed up with his obsession with the MIB's, that she had left him and they were now divorced, but he would and could not accept it.

There is also a lady I went to meet who was interested in all unusual and mysterious phenomena. On entering her home it was quite a fright, and, to me, totally unexpected. The following lay before my eyes:

A large room in near darkness, lit only by candles, with a stuffy atmosphere. Stuffed animals, birds, a skeleton and crystal balls all over the room. Needless to say, I have never visited her house again.

The list is endless of people even more unusual than those mentioned above, but the lesson to be learned from these unfortunate people is - Do not let UFO's run your life!

I know many people who lived for nothing more than UFO's, and know they are suffering in other ways - having nervous breakdowns.

Treat the subject as a hobby and cut yourself off from the subject for a rest - otherwise your personal and social life can suffer. The answer lies with YOU!

SIGHTINGS SECTION

Date: April 7th, 1974 - a Sunday.
Time: 11.30 p.m.
Location: Woodhouse Park. O.S.Ref - 86. 08. 82. 05 - Sheet 109.
Witness: Mr.Adams, aged 76 - Retired.

The witness was looking through his bedroom window at the full moon when he noticed an object moving in a northerly direction, circular in shape. It became elongated before returning to its circular shape before fading away. The sighting lasted approximately 6 seconds; angle of elevation being 45 degrees.

INVESTIGATION AND CONCLUSION NEXT ISSUE.

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Date: September 11th, 1974 - a Wednesday.
Time: 2.10 a.m.
Location: Nuneaton.
Witness: Mr.Allen, aged 54 - works for British Rail.

The witness was looking through the rear window of the tamping machine, whilst having his supper. when to his astonishment he noticed a reddish glow above the machine. It was visible for one minute and it had lights flickering underneath and it zipped off at a terrific speed. No sound was heard during this incident. Mr.Allen estimates the object's shape as disc-like; size 30 ft. and approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ mile for the witness. The object moved from South to South-East.

INVESTIGATION AND CONCLUSION NEXT ISSUE.

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SIGHTINGS STILL UNDER INVESTIGATION.

1. 1967 - August - Northwich - Silver Triangle.
2. 1973 - October - Hale - Blue/White Ball.
3. 1974 - October - Rochdale - Rectangle.
4. 1970 - Unknown - Tottington - Light.

More details in future issues.

MAPIT.....SKYWATCH.....MAPIT.....SKYWATCH.....MAPIT.....SKYWATCH.....MAPIT.

Below, the investigation and conclusions MAPIT came to on the Bolton UFO encountered last January (featured in last month's SKYWATCH).

Some people may term this UFO encounter as a landing. Was it a landing or not? Well, here at MAPIT we term it as a Landing! Many UFOlogists will disagree because to them a landing case is one with the UFO executing a controlled and smooth landing. Perhaps occupants/side-effects, etc., are seen and then perhaps a controlled take off. The reason this case is a landing is because the UFO did end up on the ground even though it didn't appear to be controlled. To quote the witness: "fall to the ground like a flare". A meteor? Why was no debris found at the landing sight? A firework? Fireworks don't glow in the dark when burnt out as big as a football. Aircraft, satellites and high-flying space junk can be discounted. MAPIT checked with the Met.Office and no temperature inversions were recorded on the night in question. The question to answer is: "What was the flame coloured glow flying high in the sky? Then, moving out of vision, the same or similar-looking object fell to the ground, giving out a glow (falling in one piece or splitting in two, a point two of the witnesses cannot agree on). Then there appeared to be nothing but a white light travelling high in the sky". The light was travelling on the same course as the glow when first seen. A light reflection is also a weak case because, after the initial sighting the windows were immediately opened. This sighting has been filed UNIDENTIFIED by MAPIT.

NOTHING TO DO WITH UFO'S

But a sign of the times: FOR SALE at £1 - "68" SUNBEAM RAPIER: taxed, MOT July; sunroof: also one leaf at £199; 2 lb of sugar at £90. Total cost: £290. Regret cannot sell separately. Tel.775-4344 after 6pm. (appeared in M/C Evening News - December, 1974).

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THE NORTHERN UFO CONFERENCE

An open letter to Lionel Beer

Dear Lionel,

I read your letter in "Skywatch" with great interest. At no time, not even in the WUFOS magazine "Skylink", was the conference called a success. I will agree that it was "something of a disaster", but to what extent it is up to people to decide for themselves. At least we made an effort and did something.

A lot of problems arose from two things:-

- 1) Speakers
- 2) Pre-conference publicity.

To be honest, we knew nothing about the speakers until they spoke, although we knew what they were going to speak on. Each person has their own interpretation of UFO data. I wasn't present in the hall during Alan Walsh's talk so I will not pass judgement. Mr. Bloor, it is fair to say, did spoil the afternoon with his "fringe" talk. The third talk on Warminster was fairly scientific and proved interesting to the audience. This was also so with the group talks afterwards, but we did feel groups might have done more for this in advance.

Regarding point two. We sent out circulars a month in advance to all UFO groups in the North, inviting to either speak or just to attend. Every group except one answered our letter, even if just to say they were not able to come. The group that didn't answer was BUFORA (Staffs), a group which might have even offered to help in advising us in organising the Conference. But no chance - I suppose unless they can do it themselves, they don't want to know.

Incidentally, there was a large display (I think no one has pointed this out) of pictures, photos, charts, graphs, cuttings and the like, all concerned with UFO's, which caused a lot of interest during the refreshment break.

May I say that I am not trying to redeem the Conference, but I am trying to point out various misinterpretations that seem to have crept in in reports of the Conference.

Yours sincerely,

MICHAEL DEAN

(Advisory Officer (WUFOS)).

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NEW IMAGE

What is the perfect UFO magazine? Well, at the present time, there isn't one in existence and at the present rate of "British UFOlogy" there never will be. In fact, "British UFOlogy" won't be in existence much longer! The local group publications such as "Skylink" of WUFOS, NABRA Journal, "Spectrum" of the Kettering Group, "Scan" in Bournemouth, and many more, serve their purpose to themselves, such as: Book reviews, Group Members' News, advertisements, articles and sometimes sightings, but not until recently did I decide on changing the content of "Skywatch". From future issues "Skywatch" will be 95% UFO sightings investigated by MAPIT and the other 5% oddments such as selected advertisements, letters, comments etc. This way MAPIT will be contributing at least something to UFOlogy

instead of articles speculating on theories overdone and useless pulp material. In America, the smallest UFO magazine published by groups is printed on glossy paper, colour photo's, scientific contributions, etc. The image all UFOlogists are projecting to the public is of a new attitude to the subject; a Scientific one, yet to read the British UFO publications one wouldn't think this. In fact, I would go as far to say that UFO publications compared to the Americans are as scientific as Beano comics. After all, without sightings there wouldn't be UFOlogy, yet only a small percentage of publications feature UFO sightings in details. I am the first to admit "Skywatch" in its present form is wasting its time. If people want to read about theories, etc, then they can buy the many hundreds of hard back and paper back books on this theme. So from the February issue MAPIT will be, to the best of its ability, printing the facts of UFO encounters throughout the North-West over the last 28 years. Whether this approach is successful or not remains to be seen, but I think its the approach publications should adopt. Groups take note PLEASE.

EDITOR.

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A CLASSIC CASE

Perhaps the largest UFO to come into our atmosphere was reported at Godman field in America: The human eye can't resolve any object that subtends less than three minutes of arc. For instance - a plane with a hundred-foot wing span would only be a speck twenty miles away, if you saw it at all. But this thing was seen clearly eightyseven miles away, or even more. If it was not midway between the two cities, why, it would have to be a thousand feet in diameter - even larger. Just think of the force required to hold it in the sky - enough to stagger any engineer. We are years away, perhaps centuries, from any such possibility. It is utterly impossible that any nation on Earth could have built such an enormous airborne machine. 'Tremendous'.

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QUOTES

Ex-President Truman: Press Conference, 4th April, 1950.

"I can assure you that flying saucers, given that they exist, are not constructed by any power on earth".

General John Samford: Former Director of Intelligence U.S. Air Force. - Press Conference, 29th July, 1952:

"However there have remained a percentage of the total, in the order of 20% of the reports, that have come from credible observers of relatively incredible things".

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MANCHESTER AERIAL PHENOMENA INVESTIGATION TEAM - Est: 1973.

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